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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,868	01/22/2004	Edward Eytchison	Sony-05300	8511

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EXAMINER

CLOUD, JOIYA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2444

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/763,868	Applicant(s) EYTCHEISON ET AL.	
	Examiner Joiya M. Cloud	Art Unit 2444	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :04/29/2009, 05/19/2009, 07/10/2009, and 11/19/2009.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to communication filed 08/26/2009. Claims 1-27 are pending. Applicant's arguments filed 08/26/2009 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

Response to Arguments

A) “The first song of a playlist being available is merely how playlists are typically played, but there is no relation to selecting a content item based on a preference. Thus, Loomis does not teach selecting a content item based on the preference.”

As to the above point A), Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner first notes that nowhere does Applicant define in the claim language the term “preference,” or what constitutes a “preference”. Therefore, Examiner has utilized the broadest reasonable interpretation of the term in light of claim 3, where a “*preference* includes a playlist.” As such, Loomis clearly anticipates the claim language where a user identifies a preference represented by the My Play List of preferred songs, created by the user, in which the system of Loomis selects a content item to be played based on this defined playlist (**see Figure 1A, item 110**). Furthermore, the system of Loomis further discloses where a user can select any target song (content item) to be selected and played by the system, based on the playlist the user defined. If Applicant intends for a specific definition to be applied, Examiner suggests amending the claim language to further define the scope of the claim and claim terms. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

B) “Furthermore, Loomis does not teach streaming the initial portion of the selected content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer. Within the Office Action, there is no cited paragraph from Loomis teaching this limitation. Additionally, Loomis never uses the word "sync" or any variation thereof.”

As to the above point B), Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner submits that there is no requirement as to what constitutes "a stream synchronizer." As recognized by a person of ordinary skill in the art, "a stream synchronizer" can refer to the stream component itself that is streaming the media content (**See paragraph [0020] and [0021] of Loomis**). In paragraphs **[0022] and [0023]**, clearly discloses a piledriver which performs stream synchronization. Accordingly, Applicant should also amend the claim to clearly reflect what is meant by the term “stream synchronizer,” if the meaning is other than the above mentioned.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the

international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by **Loomis (US Publication No. 20060155400 A1)**

As per claim 1, Armstrong teaches a method comprising: identifying a preference **(a user pre-selects preferred songs for a user playlist, paragraph [0041])**; selecting a content item based on the preference **(the first song of the playlist is selected, paragraph [0041])**; storing an initial portion of the content item in a temporary storage cache **(Figure 3A, where X seconds of five pre-buffered songs are stored for playing. See also paragraphs [0007], [0060], and [0061], where a pre-cache stores a small portion in a buffer and [0022], a local cache of the first ten seconds of a content item)**; receiving a request for the content item **(paragraph [0043], where a user requests a next song to play)**; streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer **(i.e. pile driver)** in response to the request **(paragraph [0068])**; producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the content item **(paragraph [0068])**; and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item **(Abstract and paragraphs [0007] and [0068])**.

As per claim 2, Loomis teaches a method wherein the preference is associated with a user **(paragraph [0041])**.

As per claim 3, Loomis teaches a method wherein the preference includes a playlist **(Figure 1A, playlist)**.

As per claim 4, Loomis teaches a method wherein the resultant stream mirrors the entire segment of the content (**paragraph [0007]**).

As per claim 5, Loomis teaches a method further comprising identifying a user associated with the preference (**paragraph [0041]**).

As per claim 6, Loomis teaches a method wherein the content includes one of a document, an image, audio data, and video data (**Abstract, audio data -song**).

As per claim 7, Loomis teaches a method further comprising transmitting the entire segment of the content to a stream buffer in response to the request (**paragraph [0068]**).

As per claim 8, Loomis teaches a method wherein the transmitting the entire segment of the content occurs simultaneously with streaming the initial portion (**paragraph [0007]**).

As per claim 9, Loomis teaches a method wherein the seamlessly transitioning occurs in real-time (**paragraph [0021]**).

As per claim 10, Loomis teaches a method further comprising presenting the resultant stream beginning with the initial portion and subsequently followed by a portion of the entire segment (**Abstract and paragraphs [0007] and [0068]**).

As per claim 11, claim 11 recites substantially the same limitations as claim 1. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally as well to claim 11.

As per claim 12, Loomis teaches storing an initial portion of a selected content item in a temporary storage cache; streaming the initial portion of the selected content item from the

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temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer (**paragraph [0006]**); simultaneously loading an entire segment of the selected content item to the stream synchronizer while streaming the initial portion (**paragraphs [0068] and [0007]**); producing a resultant stream comprising the initial portion of the selected content item (**paragraphs [0068] and [0007]**); and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to the entire segment of the content item (**paragraphs [0068] and [0007]**).

As per claims 13-17, the rejection for claims 1, 6, and 9 applies fully.

As per claim 18, Loomis teaches a method further comprising displaying the resultant stream (**paragraph [0048], Figure 2**).

As per claim 19, claim 19 is substantially the same as claim 1, but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally as well to claim 19.

As per claim 20, claim 20 is substantially the same as claim 1, but in system rather than method form. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally to claim 20.

As per claim 21, Loomis teaches a system wherein the client device is configured to store the initial portion of the content prior to a request for the content (**paragraphs [0060] and [0061]**).

As per claim 22, Loomis teaches a system wherein the client device is configured to receive the entire segment subsequent to a request for the content (**Abstract and paragraphs [0007] and [0068]**).

As per claim 23, Loomis teaches system wherein the client device further comprises a preference data module configured for storing information relating to the content (**paragraph [0034]**).

As per claims 24-26, the rejection for claims 1 and 6-7 applies fully.

As per claim 27, Loomis teaches identifying a preference; selecting a content item based on the preference, wherein the content item is a data file having a defined beginning point and ending point (**paragraph [0034]**); prefetching an initial portion of the content item (**paragraph [0007]**); storing the initial portion of the content item in the temporary storage cache (**paragraph [0022], local caching of the first ten seconds**); receiving a request for the content item (**paragraph [0043], where a user requests a next song to play**); streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer in response to the request (**paragraph [0068]**); producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the content item (**paragraph [0068]**) ; and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item (**paragraphs [0007] and [0068]**).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joiya Cloud whose telephone number is 571-270-1146. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from on 7:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3922. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMC**January 12, 2010**

/Yemane Mesfin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2444